

## The Fisherman & Farmer.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Fisherman & Farmer Publishing Co.

PRICE \$1.50 PER YEAR.

### A NEW CABINET OFFICER.

The Department of Agriculture Springs Into Existence.

Commissioner of Agriculture Colman Nominated for Secretary.

The President has approved the bill raising the Bureau of Agriculture to the dignity of an executive department, and named the present Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. Norman J. Colman, to be Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.



NORMAN J. COLMAN.

The law creating the new department does not define its functions or limits. A dispatch from Washington says: "The Senate will doubtless confirm the nomination, as it rarely interferes in the President's choice of advisers. But quite aside from this, it is conceded that Mr. Colman has discharged the duties of his office with intelligence, faithfulness, and to the satisfaction of a large number of Democrats as well as Republicans. It is therefore quite certain that he will have the satisfaction of being the first Secretary of Agriculture, though he will have held the office but three weeks. At any rate he will return to Missouri as Secretary."

It is forty years since a new executive department of the Government was created. The State Department and other departments of the Government in 1848 had become overburdened with public business. The result of the war with Mexico was a large acquisition of territory. The discovery of gold in California opened up a new era in emigration to the West, and the land question was becoming a very important one. The business of the Patent Office was also increasing. The details of the census, the care of the Indians pension and bounty matters were multiplying details. All these were grouped under the new department, and the act making it the Interior Department was approved March 3, 1849.

Naturally, agricultural matters aggregated under the Secretary of the Interior until 1862, when Congress created a Department of Agriculture, independent entirely of the Interior Department, but made its head only a Commissioner. The new department which is now to take a part of the burden of the Interior under its care will be known as the Centennial Department of the Government. One hundred years ago the State, Treasury, War, Postoffice and Attorney-General's offices were created by act of Congress, and these five Cabinet positions were filled that year by President Washington. The Navy Department did not begin until 1798.

For fifty-two years thereafter these six departments had charge of the executive business of the government, and the new department just now created completes the octet.

### TREASURE SEEKERS SLAIN.

Eight Mexicans Murdered at the Mouth of a Gold Mine.

A dispatch from Cheyenne, Wyoming, says: A party of eight Mexicans, trading overland, reached this city six weeks ago. They were richly dressed, splendidly outfitted and bore every evidence of being aristocrats. Don Miguel Martinez was the leader, and gave evasive replies when questioned concerning the party's mission. It was whispered that they had come to look up a gold mine located by Spaniards 200 years ago. The men spent money freely and gambled heavily. When the party left for the north they were followed by a pair of curious cowboys.

"Mexican Monte," a local character, declared the travelers had informed him they were going for the mysterious hidden gold and were guided by a chart that had been in Don Martinez's family for centuries. The party were almost forgotten until George Keller returned from the north to purchase supplies for horse traders. He says that while chasing some horses the horse hunters could not resist the temptation to look for the abandoned lodes. They were successful, stumbling upon what seemed the main shaft. They came upon the bodies of the eight Mexicans frightfully mangled. The Castilians had found their mine, but Americans were in possession of it. They claimed ownership, and a hand-to-hand struggle ensued. Knives and six-shooters were used, and the indications were that three whites had been killed. The bodies had been eaten by wolves.

The fight took place on a high canyon. "Mexican Monte" was enraged over the affair and says the Mexicans will come in force to claim their rights.

A CURIOUS crop is a harvest of 4,000 sponges. It was obtained by an Austrian savant as the result of an experiment of literally sowing small parts of living sponges in a soil favorable to their production.

## LATER NEWS.

REAR ADMIRAL CHANDLER, commanding the United States naval squadron in Asiatic waters, died a few days ago at Hong Kong, China, of apoplexy.

THE Scrutin d'Arrondissement bill has been passed by the French Chamber of Deputies, which is considered a victory for Minister Floquet and a set back for Boulanger.

A MAN, thought to be "Jack the Ripper," the Whitechapel fiend, has been arrested in Dundee, Scotland, for murdering his wife.

CARDINAL JOHN BAPTISTE PITRA, of Rome, who was the second in rank in the Papal Sacred College, is dead.

THE Constitution of the Japanese Empire was proclaimed by the Emperor in person amid great popular rejoicing.

A MOB stoned the guard which was escorting William O'Brien, the Irish agitator, from Clonmel Jail to Tralee, Ireland.

A SHOCK of earthquake was felt at Bolton and Manchester, England. The earth tremors extending to Wigan, Blackburn and Stockport. They were accompanied by repeated rumblings.

THE Soudanese have evacuated Handoub, Egypt, after destroying the town by fire.

A GOLDSMITH of Vienna killed his five children with cyanide of potassium. After administering the poison to the children he took some of it himself, and died in great agony.

MRS. JOSEPH GRONER, of Tarport, Penn., made a call on a neighbor. While she was away the house caught fire and Carrie and Joseph, three-year-old twins, were burned to death.

EDWARD D. CRALL, business manager of the Morning Call, at Harrisburg, Penn., died at his father's house on South Pitt street, of blood poisoning caused by excessive smoking of cigarettes. He was in his twenty-third year.

A COAL tar boiler at the Creosoting Brick Works in Chattanooga, Tenn., exploded, causing the death of Charles Falls and fatal injuries to his son. Both of the men were covered with coal tar, and the body of the former was burned to charcoal.

THE postoffice at Amity, Ark., has been robbed of \$700.

A COLORED woman in Henry County, Va., on going to the field to work carried her infant with her and laid it down in a fence corner near where she was employed. In a short time she saw her cabin, in which she had left her two older children, on fire. She ran to save them, but was too late. They were burned up. Returning to get her only remaining child, she was horrified to find that hogs had torn it into fragments.

FIVE children were killed by the caving in of a sand bank at Ysleta, Texas.

COLONEL HENRY J. HUNT (retired), Governor of the Soldiers' Home in the District of Columbia, died a few days ago from a complication of diseases. He was in his sixty-ninth year, and was appointed Governor of the Home about four years ago.

THE Senate has confirmed the nomination of Colonel John C. Breckenridge to be Inspector-General of the United States Army.

THE Agricultural Department bulletin just issued makes the proportion of cotton already marketed 84.3 per cent.

THE President has nominated Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, vice William M. Merrick, deceased.

JAMES OLIVER, of Industry, Ma., died a few days ago, age ninety-six. He was a veteran of the War of 1812.

THE eightieth anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln was celebrated by various clubs in New York city, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Jersey City, N. J., and Newark, N. J. Speeches were delivered by General Porter, Congressman Butterworth, Boutelle and S. V. White, Theodore Roosevelt, Warner Miller and others.

GEORGE DIMOCK was killed by his eleven-year-old son, at Carbondale, Penn., during a rehearsal of private theatricals, in which the father was the villain and the son the hero of the play.

R. P. C. WILSON has been nominated by the Democrats of the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri to succeed James N. Burnes, deceased.

THE popular vote in Nevada on the bill legalizing the sale of lotteries resulted in the defeat of the measure by about 400 majority.

At a caucus of Republican Senators the Southern question was discussed.

A STATEMENT has been prepared by the United States Treasury Department which estimates that the House Tariff bill would reduce the revenue about \$68,000,000, the Senate bill about \$48,000,000. The reductions by the House bill would be on the internal revenue \$17,610,234, on tariff \$50,350,345. The reductions by the Senate bill, internal revenue \$33,905,780, tariff \$13,970,887.

THE President has transmitted to Congress the State correspondence with England and other governments relative to the Behring sea fisheries.

A SEVERE shock of earthquake was felt at Naples, Italy, in consequence of which Mount Vesuvius is in a violent state of eruption.

THE Portuguese Cabinet has resigned.

THOMAS A. ROBESON, Consular agent of the United States at Frieth, Germany, has just died of consumption.

A BAND of fifty prominent ladies made a crusade on a saloon and gambling house at Prosser, Neb., demolishing the entire establishment. They attacked the building when it was crowded, with their aprons full of lumps of coal, breaking every window-glass and clearing out the establishment. The inmates scattered in every direction. Some of the loungers were husbands of the women. Whisky and beer flowed freely into the gutter.

## THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

### Eastern and Middle States.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND and his wife visited New York a few days since to make arrangements for their permanent residence in the Metropolis after March 4.

TWO miners were killed by an explosion of gas in the Penn shaft at Pittston, Penn.

THE strike of Brooklyn street car employes has ended, the men agreeing to return to work as individuals. The company on its part promised to pay the old wages.

CHRISTIAN DRESCHER, sixty-two years of age, was instantly killed in New York city by an elevator, which struck the back of his head and severed it from his body.

WESTERN and Northern New York were swept by a snow storm that entirely suspended travel in many localities.

CALB M. TALCOTT, dry goods merchant, of Hartford, Conn., has failed. Liabilities \$200,000.

WALTER J. GIBSON, a well-known insurance agent, committed suicide at Buffalo, N. Y., in a Turkish bath.

AN unsuccessful attempt was made to destroy a big New York city brewery with dynamite. The explosion was terrific and damaged the houses for a hundred yards around. Several persons were hurt.

THE Pacific Guano Company of Boston has assigned, with liabilities of \$1,000,000.

ALLEN S. GOOKIN, head cashier of the elevated railroad companies, in New York city, is short in his accounts and has fled. The defalcation will be made good by his bondsmen.

THE losses by the recent tie-up of street railways in New York city are estimated as follows: Car companies, \$117,600; strikers, \$50,400; retail trade, \$1,500,000; theatres, \$8,000; saloons, \$30,000. Total, \$1,707,000.

THE Standard Oil Company's glue factory at Constable Hook, N. J., was totally destroyed by fire. Loss, \$500,000.

THE steamer Haytian Republic, which was the bone of contention in our recent embroglio with Hayti, has arrived at Boston.

WYETH & SON'S large wholesale drug store and several fine residences were destroyed by fire in Philadelphia, causing a loss of about \$500,000. One fireman was killed.

UNITED STATES detectives succeeded in capturing a gang of eleven counterfeiters at Branchton, Penn. A large quantity of bogus coin was found.

A CENTRIFUGAL machine used by the New York Tartar Works in drying acids burst in Gowanus, Brooklyn, killing two men and injuring three.

AN attempt was made to blow up a tenement house in New York city in which 100 people were sleeping.

EDWARD J. PHELPS, United States Minister to the Court of St. James, has arrived in New York.

### South and West.

PRESIDENT-ELECT HARRISON has leased the "Spencer Cottage" at Deer Park, Md., for a summer residence, and his family expect to take possession about June 1.

A SLIGHT earthquake shock was felt at Charleston, S. C. The vibration was of brief duration.

W. F. BRADLEY, son of ex-Judge Bradley of Iowa, shot and killed his wife and then himself at Chicago. Bradley and his wife were reporters on a morning paper.

WARSAW, Ill., is afflicted with black measles. Over 100 cases have been reported and thirteen deaths. Public schools have been closed and public meetings of all kinds prohibited.

THE Chicago police officials, Inspector Bonfield and Captain Schack, who were charged by the Times with corruption, have been indefinitely suspended by Mayor Roche.

A TERRIBLE blizzard raged for two days in the Northwest, it being especially severe in Michigan.

W. W. BUSSEY, teller of the Eagle and Phoenix Bank of Columbus, Ga., has absconded with about \$65,000.

OHIO'S treasury is said to be rapidly becoming bankrupt, the deficit now amounting to \$1,160,000.

LIGHT earthquake shocks were reported from Los Angeles and San Bernardino, Cal.

AT the naval proving grounds at Annapolis, Md., the Thurlow steel gun was experimented with and it stood the Government test.

RUSSELL B. HARRISON, son of General Harrison, has purchased the Helena (Montana) Record.

COLONEL J. E. WALLER, private secretary of Governor Lee, of Virginia, was found dead in his office with a bullet wound near his left ear. It was an undoubted case of suicide. He was a man of fine appearance and thirty-two years old.

IN the joint assembly of the West Virginia Legislature the Republicans offered a protest against the Democratic plan of procedure in not allowing the vote for Governor to be read, and immediately arose and left the hall, thus breaking the quorum. Notwithstanding this the work of voting for United States Senator was continued.

HENRY DIECKMANN, a prominent member of the Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis, has gone to Canada, leaving a shortage of \$50,000.

JAMES ROSS, colored, has been hanged at Brandenburg, Ky., for the murder of Benedict Rhodes, an old farmer.

THE Legislatures of ten Western States have resolved to investigate the dressed-beef "combine."

THREE men were killed in the mine of the American Mining and Smelting Company at Leadville, Col.

HAYWOOD HANDY, colored, who shot a young white man named Charles Stewart, was lynched by a mob at Shreveport, La.

THE Ohio and Western Coal and Iron Company, of Columbus, Ohio, has failed. The company was capitalized for \$3,000,000 in bonds and \$5,000,000 in stock.

J. BORDEAUX and his four children, ranging from six to fourteen years old, died from eating poisoned cabbage at Shelton, Washington Territory.

### Washington.

THE Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Whitney entertained the President and Mrs. Cleveland, with members of the Cabinet and others, at a dinner. Governor Hill, of New York, and Speaker Carlisle were among the guests.

THE Secretary of War has awarded the contract for the construction of seven dynamite guns, with all accessories, including ammunition, steam power and machinery for operating, etc., to the Pneumatic Dynamite Gun Company, of New York, at their bid of \$395,500.

THE President has referred the bill creating a Department of Agriculture to the Attorney General for an opinion. He has some doubts as to the constitutionality of the measure and as to the public necessity for so great an addition to the annual expenditures.

FRANK B. POSEY, of Indiana, Governor Hovey's successor in Congress from the 1st Indiana District, appeared and took the oath of office. He is a man of fine personal appearance and is about forty-five years old.

BOTH houses of Congress having agreed to the conference report on the bill incorpo-

rating the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua, the measure went to the President for his approval.

CONSUL-GENERAL SEWALL has been summarily dismissed from his position in Samoa because he did not agree with Secretary Bayard's policy.

THE President and Mrs. Cleveland, in superb style, dined the judges of the Supreme Court and their ladies, inviting to meet them a large party of friends. This is their last State dinner.

THE Secretary of State has received the formal acceptance by Great Britain of this country's invitation to participate in the International Maritime Conference to be held at Washington next autumn. The other countries who have signified their intention to be represented at the Conference are: Brazil, Chili, Denmark, France, Germany, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Norway, and Uruguay.

THE "protocols" (official minutes) of the conference on Samoan affairs, held in Washington in 1887, together with additional correspondence on the subject, have been laid before Congress by the President.

THE President has nominated Carroll D. Wright, of Massachusetts, to be Commissioner of Labor.

MRS. CLEVELAND held a largely attended reception at the White House.

JOHN A. P. EDGERTON has been dismissed from the position as one of the Civil Service Commissioners by President Cleveland.

REAR ADMIRAL BANCROFT GREARDI, commandant at the Navy Yard, New York, has been ordered by the President to command the North Atlantic squadron, relieving Rear Admiral Luce, who goes on the retired list.

### Foreign.

GENERAL SALAMANCA has been appointed Captain-General of Cuba in place of General Marin, who has resigned.

CARDINAL LEDOCHOWSKI, formerly Primate of Poland and Archbishop of Fosen, is dead. He was imprisoned by Prince Bismarck, but was released on his promise to reside abroad.

COUNT WILLIAM BISMARCK has been appointed President of the Province of Hanover.

THE bark Largsay collided off Beachy-head, England, with an unknown steamer, which sank in eight minutes. Over one hundred lives were supposed to have been lost.

ANOTHER story of the Austrian Crown Prince Rudolf's death says that the Baroness Marie Vetsera and the Prince committed suicide together at Meyerling.

A FAMINE and epidemic of typhus fever prevail in Doboka, Hungary. Ten persons have died and the distress is spreading. The calamity is attributed to a failure of the potato crop.

COUNT TOLSTOI has tendered his resignation as Russian Minister of the Interior, and it has been accepted by the Czar.

HEAVY gales have been raging on the English and Irish coasts. A building fell near Bolton, crushing a number of cottages and killing six persons. At Pembroke a ferryboat capsized and nine persons were drowned.

TEN THOUSAND of the unemployed laboring class rioted in Rome, Italy. The mob looted banks and shops, smashed windows and street lamps and attempted to build barricades to protect themselves against the troops. In the fight that followed scores of the rioters were wounded, also a dozen policemen. The military were finally successful in dispersing the mob.

A TERRIFIC snow storm prevailed throughout Scotland, accompanied by high winds and extremely low temperature. The telegraph wires were prostrated.

THE bark Theodore Behrend has been wrecked at Texel, England. Ten persons were drowned, including the Captain and his family.

WHEN neighbors of William Tubbs, of Gosfield, Canada, entered his house a few days ago they found the entire family dead—father, mother and four children. They had all succumbed to malignant diphtheria.

M. DE LESSEURS in a circular letter issued from Paris to Panama Canal subscribers said that no new company could be formed to complete the canal, because not enough of the new shares had been taken.

GALES and snowstorms were prevalent in Great Britain. Along the coast there were numerous wrecks. A bark was lost off Grimsby, and eleven people were drowned.

### A PRIEST MURDERED.

Killed By a Lunatic Whom He Had Befriended.

Father Ashfield, one of the priests of St. Peter's Cathedral, Memphis, Tenn., was assassinated by Will Reed, a semi-lunatic, the other morning at 5 o'clock.

Reed had been befriended by the priest, who had got him out of jail, where he was confined for lunacy. Reed appeared at the door of the father's house at night and called for him. He was sent away by Father Moran. Next morning the sexton heard a noise at the door and found Reed there. The sexton then went for a policeman, and while he was gone Reed slipped in, ran to Father Ashfield's door and knocked. When the priest opened the door Reed stabbed him in the heart. Reed was put under arrest. St. Peter's Cathedral is one of the largest churches in the South.

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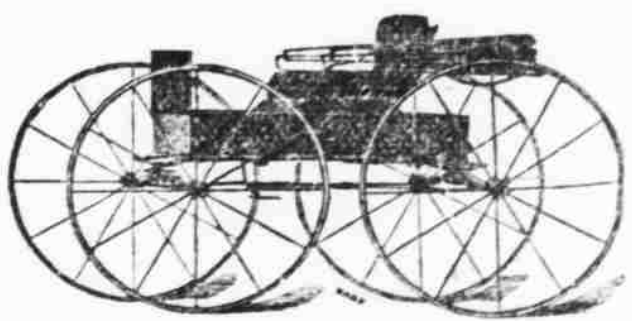
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